

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 739

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Rhoda Mae Hodge of Elizabethton on the celebration of her 90th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should recognize citizens who are celebrating milestones in their venerable lives; and

WHEREAS, Rhoda Mae Hodge celebrated her 90th birthday on April 13, 1998, an occasion which was commemorated with great joy in remembering the past, giving thanks for the present and eagerly anticipating the future; and

WHEREAS, Rhoda was born on April 13, 1908, in Butler, Tennessee, one of 14 children born to Mary Florence LaVina Toney and Joel Grant Nave; and

WHEREAS, she and Ivan C. Hodge were married October 3, 1925, by Pastor Hazelwood, a blessed union that lasted 62 years, until his death on July 13, 1988; and

WHEREAS, their loving marriage produced nine successful children, 14 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild, along with a very special grandson, Warren G. Hardin, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Rhoda has been an active member of the Immanuel Baptist Church for 65 consecutive years and is the oldest living charter member of the church; and

WHEREAS, Rhoda and her husband delivered the local newspaper *The Elizabethton Star* for a combined 40 years, until their retirement; and

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WHEREAS, they were affectionately referred to as "Pa and Granny Hodge" by their many loyal customers; and

WHEREAS, Rhoda is a remarkable woman as well as an inspiration to all who know her, always greeting others with open arms and a beautiful smile; and

WHEREAS, the members of this body find it appropriate to pause in our deliberations to specially recognize one of Tennessee's finest citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Rhoda Mae Hodge on the celebration of her 90th birthday and extend to her our best wishes for many happy returns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.